

E-Mail Release

From: Montana Department of Commerce

To: Montana K-12 School Districts

Date: Friday, May 15th, 2009

Re: Quick Start Grants Program ("Quick Start")

As of May 15, 2009, The Montana Department of Commerce is providing competitive grants for Montana schools to perform energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades. Quick Start, approved by the 61st Legislature in the Montana Reinvestment Act (HB 645), implements the federal American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. This program is designed to assist schools with conducting energy audits and completing energy efficiency projects that provide long-term, cost-effective benefits to K-12 school facilities.

The Department of Commerce will distribute up to \$14,950,000 million in Quick Start funds on a reimbursement basis until September 30, 2009.

Montana Public School Districts are eligible to submit applications to the Department of Commerce on a rolling basis for a Quick Start Grants in the following areas:

- 1.) Energy Audit or Evaluation. An energy audit or evaluation of the potential for energy savings in a school facility by a prequalified energy auditor.
- 2.) Energy Efficiency Improvements. Energy efficiency improvements that are based on an energy audit or evaluation and that are expected to achieve measureable energy efficiency to a school facility and cost savings to the public school district.

Applications are available on the website at <http://commerce.mt.gov/QuickStart>.

In awarding grants to public school districts, the Department will consider the potential for energy savings in public school facilities based on factors including the age, energy use, function and condition of the building. The Department will make every attempt to accommodate large, small, urban and rural schools.

The Department will not reimburse any costs incurred by successful grant applicants after September 30th, 2009. Per legislation, any funding not obligated for reimbursement by this date would roll into the Quality Schools Grant Program created by the 61st Legislature in HB152 to create the K-12 Quality Schools Facility Program. Legislation

regarding HB1152 may be viewed at:

<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2009/billpdf/HB0152.pdf> . More information on the Quality Schools Facility Program will be distributed as it becomes available.

We look forward to providing this valuable service to Montana's public schools. For more information please contact the Quality Schools Grant Program at 406-841-2800.